

hundreds of professors and is reportedly looking to reinstate others whose skills and support are needed for Iraq's development. I hope this revision is seen for what it is—acknowledgement that we went too far, acknowledgement that we made a mistake. I hope it will also include the removal of Ahmed Chalabi as the head of the de-Baathification program, as well. He is the wrong person for the job for a lot of reasons.

While not reversing the mistaken decision to disband the Iraqi Army, the administration's decision to bring back some military officers who were not high Baathists to help guide the new Iraqi Army and other security forces is a practical first step—very late. We only have a few thousand in the Iraqi Army who are now trained but long overdue.

One other mistake was perhaps the biggest mistake of all, in my judgment. Our uniformed military leadership was largely excluded from the planning for the potentially violent aftermath of the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime. The civilians in the Pentagon who were put in charge projected rose-colored scenarios in their planning for the aftermath: Our troops would be greeted with embraces and flowers. It would be a cakewalk.

Had our uniformed military leadership been more deeply involved in that planning, it would have been very different, as our military plans for worst case scenarios. The worst case scenario is what turned out to be the case. But uniformed military were all but left out of the planning for the post-Saddam period. General Tommy Franks, the now retired commander of Central Command who planned the other phases of the operation, confirmed that to me and to Senator WARNER a few weeks ago.

On the matter of planning, I realize the administration is committed to the June 30 date for the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty. But I hope that commitment will not prevent it from planning for other options in the event Mr. Brahimi is not successful in identifying a credible entity to whom sovereignty can be restored by that date.

If we have a chance of succeeding and bringing stability and democracy to Iraq, it will mean learning from our mistakes, not denying them and not ignoring them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. THOMAS. Madam President, are we now under the Republican time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I yield that 3 minutes to the Senator from Minnesota, Mr. DAYTON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 3050

Mr. DAYTON. Madam President, I thank my friend from Nevada for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the amendment being offered by Senator DASCHLE to the bill before the Senate about the use of ethanol and other renewable fuels.

Here we are in the middle of this energy price crisis in our country, when in Minnesota the price of a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline is almost \$2, and in other parts of the country it is as high as \$2.50. Possibly it is going higher. I am being asked what are we doing about bringing the price of motor fuel down. I think the honest answer is nothing. There is not a whole lot we can do when we are dependent upon foreign supplies of oil, when we are sending \$115 billion a year overseas to buy that product.

Senator DASCHLE's amendment—I give him great credit for every year championing the cause of renewable fuels, with the opportunity that is right before us in America today to shift from foreign oil consumption to using a cleaner burning, lower priced, American-grown, American-produced fuel, not as a substitute for MTBE—the additives to gasoline—but as a substitute for gasoline itself. I know that because I drive all over the State of Minnesota in a Ford Explorer, factory-produced, with a slight modification to the usual engine. It was modified in the factory. I drive on 85-percent ethanol and 15-percent gasoline. Today it is 20 cents a gallon cheaper than regular unleaded gasoline. I can get it in most places in Minnesota.

We can give the American people a choice to have a homegrown fuel with the money staying in America to benefit our rural economies. We can renew it every year. We know we can produce the amount that will be necessary, and today it will cost 20 to 15 cents a gallon less than regular unleaded gasoline and likely in the future \$1 less than the rising cost of gasoline. If we are not going to take any steps to bring about that opportunity, people will think we are out of our minds.

I do not understand why the debate today on Senator DASCHLE's amendment about why do this, or why not do this and even more.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. DAYTON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute to finish my remarks.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask that the majority have an additional 1 minute in morning business also.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DAYTON. Madam President, Senator DASCHLE has been heroic in my caucus and this body in his support for those who are not in corn-producing States who support ethanol and other renewable fuels, biofuels as products. But this is not just about South Dakota or Minnesota. Yes, it benefits my State. It benefits the farmers of my

State. This benefits America. This is the best opportunity in my lifetime to shift our energy consumption from our traditional sources and their costs to something that is American, that is clean, and that is cheaper. I am amazed we are not racing to the stores for that product. We have it. Senator DASCHLE's amendment will take us in that direction. We should be doing even more than that, but this is an important first step. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

IRAQ

Mr. THOMAS. Madam President, I had come to the Senate floor to talk about an issue that is very important to all of us, particularly Medicare recipients in this country. But first I have to express some disappointment, frankly, and some surprise about the discussion that has gone on here in the first 30 minutes criticizing the President on everything that is happening overseas, acting as if we are not in support of what is happening there.

I am very surprised and, frankly, disappointed. All they talk about is what the President has done. We voted here on this floor to do this job in the Middle East. That is what we are seeking to do, and that is what our great service people are doing for us over there.

The idea behind conducting Operation Iraqi Freedom was to free 25 million Iraqis from the Saddam Hussein regime. That is why we are there: to defend the will of the international community, to remove the threat of terrorism that happened here on September 11, and to change the dynamics in the Middle East. That is what we are seeking to do, and that is what we are trying to carry on, and it is an admirable effort.

Madam President, 211 Members of Congress have visited Iraq and witnessed firsthand some of the extraordinary efforts of the coalition forces and Iraqis. I have been to Iraq. I am impressed with what they are doing. For us to simply criticize everything that is happening there aimed at the election in 2004 is a great disappointment to me.

Despite the terrorist attacks and the tough events that have happened, public opinion has found 56 percent of Iraqis believe things are better than they were; 71 percent believe a year from now they will be better than they are now. Again, having been there, I agree with that assessment. I have been there traveling around with the military, with all the little kids waving and saying hello. I have seen the schools and hospitals that have been fixed up. Of course, there is a real problem with terrorism, there is no question about it.

The defeat of Saddam Hussein's regime is the second major victory in the war on terrorism. We need to continue.